(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[*English*]

Direct Train Between Delhi and Kotdwara

*771 SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a direct train between Delhi and Kotdwara was planned a few years back and trial runs were carried out in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing this train; and

(c) when it is proposed to be introduced now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

[*Translation*]

Collieries in Jharkhand, Bihar

*772. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of collieries lying closed in Jharkhand area of Bihar;

(b) the reasons for the closure of these collieries;

(c) whether any efforts are being made by the Government to revive these collieries;

(d) if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and

(e) the names of collieries likely to be revived during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Closed collieries fall in two categories:

(1) Those collieries taken over as closed and still continuing to remain closed.

(2) Those collieries taken over as working or opened new after nationalisation and which are now closed:

Number of closed collieries falling in the territory of State of Bihar is as follows:-

Category - I	27
Category - II	25

(b) Reasons for collieries of category I continuing to remain closed are:

(1) These could not be merged/regrouped or amalgamated to form a reconstituted mine.

(2) Lack of infrastructural facilities on account of geographical location.

(3) Isolated patch deposit with very small reserves and seasonal work-ability.

(4) Insufficient geological data available for such mines.

(5) Non-availability of reliable working plans in respect of old workings.

(6) Not viable techno-economically.

Reasons for closure of mines of Category II

(i) Exhaustion of extractable reserves.

(ii) Highly uneconomic working without any potentiality for further viability.

(iii) Adversely geo-mining conditions.

(c) & (d). Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made to re-open such of the closed mines where intensive exploration efforts have given indications of their potentiality for commercial exploitation.

Feasibility reports for opening some collieries have been approved by competent authority and are under process of implementation and some others are under planning stage.

(e) Nil.

[*English*]

Electrification of Sabarmati-Gandhinagar Line

*773. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for electrification of Sabarmati-Gandhinagar railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The electrification will cover 28 route kilometres between Sabarmati and Gandhinagar and is estimated to cost Rs. 12.63 crores.

Shortage of Hindustan Petroleum Refills

6331. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortage of LPG refills of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Generally there is no shortage in the supply of refills.

Regularisation of Contractual Workers in Coal India Limited

6332. SHRI HARDHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of jobs declared under prohibitive category in coal mines operation;

(b) whether these jobs are being managed by the contractors in different subsidiaries of the Coal India Limited;

(c) if so, the reasons for awarding these jobs to contractors;

(d) whether the Government propose to regularise the workers engaged by the contractors on these jobs; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): Engagement of Contract Labour in the following categories of work in the Coal